

My name is Heather Laslo; I am a senior cosmetology student at the Mercer County Technical School at Sypek center. My home school is Steinert High School in Hamilton, New Jersey.

I am currently attending the Sypek Center advancing to my senior year of cosmetology, which is a very serious and determined class. In this field, at the end of your junior year you must complete a total of 600 hours to apply for your beautician permit. At the end of your senior year you are required to have a total of 1,000 hours and all the skills and knowledge it takes to be a stylist. In June of senior year you apply to go take the state board test, which is a written and practical test in which you earn your beautician license. This license allows you to work in any salon as an assistant as you then work your way up to a stylist and get your own chair.

As you can see it takes a lot of work to keep up in this class. The hours make it so you can rarely miss school at all. This program actually pushes me to get up in the morning. This is because I look forward to going to school to learn more about something I love to do. It holds my interest for the entire 2 hours and 45 minutes that I am there a day. On half days, at home school we choose to attend full days at votech. We give up our time of being off from school early to still come to votech. Being a student at a vocational school accounts for four classes at a home school. At this point I am acing cosmetology which has increased my G.P.A. which is another plus to this program. For the morning half of my day at home school I am required to take four classes. I am required to take a Gym/Health, Art, English and a Science. If there were any more classes with requirements of four years to graduate i'm not sure myself and a lot of other students would not have the opportunity to stay enrolled in the vocational program.

I myself have a very full day, nine periods in a day, four of them are my home school classes, after fourth period I have to catch the bus right away leaving little or/no time for me to even think about getting lunch 5th period, then to go to my vocational school for almost 3 hours a day. After votech to go back to Hamilton, maybe get some homework done then to go to work at a salon as an assistant. Thanks to the wonderful opportunity of the cosmetology shop and a great teacher. Thanks to this program it gives me and a bunch of other cosmetology students a jumpstart on our careers as well as all the other shops offered at any technical school.

You might be considering students are missing out on classes at home school, when in the long run we're not. Most of the students attending vocational schools are pursuing something they love to do and want to excel in as their career. For some might even realize the career they thought they would be doing for life in fact isn't what they thought it was going to be, and then can change directions. This gives students many opportunities a lot of people will never get to experience. To acquire a trade like automotive, electrician, or cosmetology, anything like that costs money and it's not cheap. It also gives a lot of students an opportunity of great education and for a chance at doing something they might not have the money to pay for on their own.

Students here are very dedicated and continue education in all kinds of subjects as for my class in theory class we deal with chemicals, which accounts for chemistry and some math with mixing, as well as history, the history of how things work the way they do. I have chosen to enroll at the county vocational school to be able to get a job straight out of high school, to be ahead of most people who don't have this wonderful opportunity. I am please asking you to reconsider your thoughts about adding more academic requirements for all high school students. By adding even one more required class could kill the dreams of a few students waiting their day to join in the education of vocational school.

Thank you for your time